NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

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N. E. FARMER.

For the N. E. Farmer.

TO SILK GROWERS.

There has been great mismanagement the present year, and some serious disappointments in the manufacture of silk. Some, who intended to have made 100 or more pounds of silk, have fallen far short of their expectations. While some have neglected their trees or destroyed them, others have neglected their silk worms' eggs, had them prematurely hatched, or, while nearly ready to hatch, with the intention of retarding the hatching, placed them in the ice house, or other insecure place, by which the change of temperature was so great or so long continued, as to endanger the health or vitality of the eggs. Broods which were early brought forward for feeding did well; but the after broods, having been submitted to the retarding process in the ice house or refrigerator, were seriously injured. Some did not hatch, and of those which did, some worms became feeble, diseased, soft, yellow, and died; and others lingering through several weeks, or appearing well until the time of going up, would then die; or if able to commence the outskirts of the cocoon, would then cease to wind, and like poor little Robbin in the Woods, lie down and die, in its visible shroud: and among a large crop, only a few be able to make a perfect cocoon. Symptoms of disease may appear, even in the early stages, when negligently or improperly fed, but when well fed in the early stages with chopped leaves, they have done well. The six weeks worm, when fed two weeks with chopped leaves, finished their cocoons, or went up, in twentyfive days. Thousands of worms have been suffocated and destroyed by covering therewith large flaccid leaves. In the early stages of feeding, when the worms wander about and begin to spin a web under their feet, you may calculate on a weak and feeble insect; and if the worm is taken up or removed, it may be found so closely attached to its netting that before it can be separated, a leg may be drawn out, a watery substance follow, and the worm perish. Although the season, or other adverse causes, have so operated that eggs and worms have disappointed the expectation, let no one be discouraged from further trial. Provided the farmer's crop of grain should fail one year, does he neglect to try again? And why not be as sagacious in the silk cause? The silk crop is as sure as any other. Will the cotton planter neglect his cotton field next year because the worm has committed such ravages the present year? and why should not the silk-grower do the same?

Could all the facts of the treatment and management with the eggs of the silk-worm be known, it is believed that one great cause of failure might be traced to mismanagement or attempt to retard the hatching for a late crop and a market for the eggs. The too sudden exposure to great heat or cold is prejudicial to the eggs, especially if the eggs are raised from worthless cocoons.

The ice-house or refrigerator is not so safe as a deep well with or without water, where the temperature is much the same, winter and summer.

One person, from 100,000 eggs had less than 100 worms which even attempted to wind, and not half of them were worth reeling: the others perished by the way. The person who had charge of them is not discouraged, but having discovered the cause of failure, which was in the ice house, he is determined upon going ahead, and hopes to avoid a similar occurrence.

One person this year has been experimenting upon one quarter of an acre of mulberries, with the view of testing Mr McLean's experiment of last year, and also to convince his incredulous neighbors. He will probably have 9 to 12 1-2 pounds of raw silk from that one quarter of an acre, worth $5 per lb., say $50; whereas if the same land had been planted with corn, he might have had 7 bushels at 75 cents—$5 25; or if with wheat, might have had enough to make one barrel of flour worth $6 25. It costs no more to transport a pound of silk to market, worth five dollars, than a pound of flour, worth four cents; and while it requires at least *six months* to mature a crop of wheat for the market, *six weeks* are sufficient for a crop of silk: and after deducting every possible expense between the culture of a grain and a silk crop, is not the difference of profit so far superior as to encourage some passing notice of silk, and especially when an inferior soil is adapted to the growth of the mulberry? S.

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Mr H. Colman—Dear Sir—I forwarded you, sometime since, a circular for collection of facts, respecting the silk business, raising cocoons, &c., and having received several answers, at leisure may forward you some of them. Previous to the above circular, I had submitted written questions to several persons friendly to the silk culture, for their experience, opinion, &c. The questions proposed were the following:

No. 1. What kind of mulberry do you consider the best for feeding, to produce the most and best silk?

2. What kind of silk worms do you prefer, to produce the most and best silk?

3. Do the two-crop worms make as much and as good silk as the one-crop?

4. Have you crossed the different breeds, and with what success?

5. Do you consider it necessary to feed as regularly during the night as by day?

6. What is the cost of making raw silk, sewing silk, from cocoons of your own raising?

7. What is the average number of cocoons to the pound of 16 oz., and how many pounds for a pound of silk?

8. How much foliage for a pound of silk? Is there any difference of quality in the foliage of different trees of the same age?

9. The size of your cocoonery; how many worms can be fed; what alteration should you propose?

10. Do you prefer shelves or hurdles for feeding, and what accommodation for winding?

11. At what distance should trees be planted for a permanent plantation?

12. Your opinion of the ultimate success of the silk business and the best means to promote it?

13. How many trees for an acre of land, purposely for feeding worms?

14. Your opinion of taking up and resetting every spring; and whether by use of the spade or the plough?

15. The difference of expense of planting, cultivating, gathering and securing an acre of mulberry, corn, or potatoes?

16. The difference in the quantity of foliage the first year, from planting roots or cutting buds?

17. How many cocoons to a thread, designed for ladies dresses, sewing silk or vesting?

To the above inquiries the answers were at variance with each other, probably from local causes. Several to whom application was made, have not returned a written answer: some said they were incompetent to do it—had not kept a silk journal: others could not find time. But all were decidedly of the opinion that the 12th question could be answered affirmatively. Of the same opinion are intelligent gentlemen who are not silk growers, that *the silk business will ultimately succeed*. There are, however, some cynics who will condemn every thing which does not originate with themselves.

Since the tree mania has met with a collapse, the silk business has begun to assume a healthy condition, which, by individual exertion, perseverance and governmental protection, bids fair to become one of the great staples of our country. The present year has been the experiment year, to test the practicability of growing the article merely, without much regard to the profit. There is much yet to be learned in regard to the best and most economical mode of feeding and reeling. But to promote the culture or growing of silk, until we shall have arrived at more perfection than at present, it will be highly necessary to have the encouragement and bounty in some shape continued a few years more.

Wishing to preserve on the society's files the originals, I shall forward you copies of Mr Huntington's communication and perhaps some others, to be at your disposal.

The exhibition of silk at our late show, wrought upon the domestic reel and wheel, was very encouraging, and showed the practicability of every family making their own common sewings. The silk hosiery made from floss and perforated cocoons, were a substantial article. People are beginning to appreciate the legitimate use of the silk tree.

There have been made only partial returns in answer to the silk circulars. Returns have been made from only 23 towns out of 66: from Belchertown 22; Northampton, Easthampton, Hadley and Sunderland, 10 each; Amherst 18; Williamsburg 13; Whately and Conway 8 each; Springfield 6; Longmeadow, Leyden, Greenfield, South Hadley, Chesterfield, Goshen, Hatfield and Southampton 2 each; Deerfield 5; Leverett and Rowe one each; Ware has several whose names were not returned;

and it is known that there are several in other towns.

From all of the above towns the whole quantity of cocoons was only about 8000 pounds, and I have no doubt that there has been raised this year at least 10,000 pounds within this agricultural district—sufficient to make 1000 lbs. of raw silk, worth 5000 dollars—a very small sum indeed, in proportion to the capability of the towns. It would be very easy to raise in each town as many pounds of silk as there are inhabitants. By the returns made it appears that more than one fourth of the whole was raised in Northampton. The crops of another year will probably be much greater, and would have been double the present year had there been a sufficiency of healthy worms: millions on millions have perished before or after hatching. One person in this district lost a quantity of imported eggs equal to *twelve millions*. Within my own knowledge, one lot of eggs, called 100,000, wound less than 100 cocoons, and not one half of them were fit to be reeled. The fatality attending the silk worms or eggs this year is unprecedented, in every section of the country from Maine to Georgia. Within the last two years, silkworms' eggs had been sold at an enormous price; next to the mulberry tree, what was sold for ten dollars might be profitably raised for as many cents. This speculation induced many to save all their cocoons last year for eggs, among which were many imperfect and soft cocoons, producing, of course, a feeble progeny; whereas none but the hardest and soundest cocoons should be saved for eggs. To this cause may be traced some portion of the failure. But the greatest injury has probably arisen from the attempt to keep back the hatching, by depositing them in the ice house: too sudden transition and exposure to heat or cold completed the destruction—(so I opine.) In the instance of the loss of the twelve millions, it was entirely attributable to the too long detention in the ice house. I and others had some of them before they had lain too long in the ice house, and they did well and produced a splendid golden pea-nut cocoon; and the loss of the 100,000 is attributable to similar causes.

These results have been discouraging to many, so that it has been made a serious inquiry whether the growing of silk can be made profitable as an agricultural crop. But while some—well-wishers to the silk cause—have been sedulously engaged, working against the wind of popular opinion and the tide of reproach and sarcasm, have, and do entertain, a favorable opinion of the silk cause, ought we not as Americans and as friends to agricultural improvement, bear with and encourage them to go ahead, instead of throwing obstacles in the way? Members of this society (the Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin Agricultural Society,) are in correspondence with some of the most eminent silk growers of the country, who unitedly expressed their confidence in the opinion, that the business may be made so profitable as to engage the attention of all who would be satisfied with a reasonable return for their labor, or have patriotism to assist in diminishing some twenty million of dollars annually expended for an article of luxury.

With due respects, yours, &c,

D. STEBBINS.

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SILK CULTURE.

Extract of a letter from an experienced cultivator in reply to a printed circular, under date of Sept. 29, 1840:

Dear Sir:—I have raised this year 197 pounds of cocoons (separate from my others,) upon the foliage of one fourth of an acre, as an experiment, and after rejecting the poorest, had 126 lb. 5 oz.—This was done to test the experiment of Mr Mc Lean the last year; and I expect to have as much silk as he had from the same quantity of land. I had also a further object, which was, to bring conviction home to some of my incredulous neighbors. I have commenced the reeling, and when finished, hope to have some facts worthy of being communicated to the public.

It is my present candid opinion, that one half of the silk which may be raised on a given quantity of land, will fully pay for all the cost of raising, including cultivation, picking leaves and feeding worms, and that the State bounty will fully indemnify for the labor of picking and feeding, board not included. E. M.

Remarks. The experimenter expresses the opinion that the State bounty will pay for the expense of picking and feeding; but there are other expenses to be brought into account, such as board, rent of land, interest of stock invested, &c.; therefore it seems highly necessary, to encourage the culture, that the bounty should be continued for some years. The worms used were of the six weeks kind; but the leaves having been chopped fine the two first weeks, the worms went up in 25 days. The Chinese use chopped leaves in the early stages, and all with us who have practised the same, have been successful in a healthy crop of worms. S.

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Extract of a letter from a highly respectable silk-grower in the county of Franklin, in reply to the silk circular. The writer says that the following persons (names not here mentioned,) were supplied with eggs of his own raising, and that the worms were perfectly healthy; that three fifths of the persons fed with the multicaulis foliage and one with the white mulberry.

One person fed 30,000 worms, consumed 1200 lbs. of multicaulis foliage, and had 70 lbs. of cocoons; another fed 35,000 worms, consumed 1327 lbs. of do. and had 100 lbs. cocoons; another fed 25,000 worms, consumed 817 lbs. of do. and had 75 lbs. cocoons; another fed 40,000 worms with the white mulberry, (leaves not weighed,) and had 105 lbs. cocoons; another fed 8000 worms with multicaulis, (leaves not weighed,) and had 10 1-2 lbs. of cocoons: *four pounds* of these last reeled *half a pound* of raw silk.

The persons who fed the 35,000 and 25,000 worms, chopped the leaves, which they say greatly abridged the labor of feeding, and prevented waste. (The Chinese do the same.) That 13 lbs. of raw silk (peanut) reeled in a style of superior beauty by a lady, was sent to the American Institute for exhibition.

The correspondent closes with the following pertinent remarks:

"If this nation does not become a silk-growing nation, the fault will be her own. We lack nothing bestowed by Providence to become such at once. All that can be wanted is the diffusion of practical knowledge. We have the gift, and the knowledge is exceedingly easy to be acquired. I do not believe that *sudden* fortunes can be acquired by the culture of silk; but it will yield to patience and industry an ample reward. The business is too unpopular at present to flourish, by being associated with the mulberry bubble; but I hope the result of this year will convince all grades and classes of its practicability, and lead them to investigate the subject. E. D."

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Extract of a letter from an experienced silk-grower in the county of Hampden, under date of April, 1840, in answer to sundry questions:

Dear Sir—

Having fed worms with the foliage of the white mulberry, the morus multicaulis and the large leaf Canton, do not find much difference in the quality of silk. The *quantity* of silk produced very much depends on regular and attentive feeding. I have fed the six-weeks, the one and two crop worms, and am decidedly in favor of the six-weeks kind, as being more profitable, and shall use no other for feeding. Cocoons from the two-crop worms yield only about half so much silk from the bushel as the six-weeks or one-crop.

Of the worms fed on the white and large-leaf Canton, 3000 cocoons weighing 10 pounds, made one pound of silk; but it required 15 pounds of the two-crop to make a pound of raw silk.

I think that worms fed upon the morus multicaulis foliage make thinner and looser cocoons, and yield less silk than those fed on the white or large-leaf Canton.

I should think that the average quantity of foliage to make a pound of silk, would rather exceed than fall short of 100 pounds.

As an experiment, I left out about 400 Cantons during last winter, and from appearances I feel quite sanguine that they will stand the weather well on our soil.

Respecting the profits of growing silk, I am of the opinion that it may be made a fair business: our further experience in gathering foliage, using the branches and reeling silk, will increase the profits.

We have made in this place last season (1839) more than 50 pounds of silk, and received 105 dollars bounty from the State (besides the bounty of the agricultural society) and the coming season hope to increase the quantity.

I regret that I cannot give more definite answers to most of your questions. For my own satisfaction the coming season, I intend keeping an exact account of expense and facts relating to it, and if I find any thing worthy of notice, will cheerfully inform you, in aid of your praiseworthy intention of disseminating correct information on this interesting subject.

Respectfully, yours, W. O. N.

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Hadley, Sept., 1840.

Dear Sir—You know that I attempted a few years since to do something in the culture of silk, in which I was unsuccessful. I have this summer been making another experiment, with which I am better pleased. One principal cause of disappointment, probably was too highly raised expectations of profit. I was unfortunate in several respects: my first crop of cocoons were laid in the garret where the rats ruined them. The next crop were enclosed in tin cylinders: in consequence of confinement, fermentation so weakened the the texture as to render it impossible to reel them. During this time there was no market for cocoons, in this region; but the next year offers were made, yet the price and mode of measuring were so precarious and so entirely in the hands of the purchaser, that I abandoned the business in

disgust and as a miserable concern. However, my trees (white mulberry) were left standing: the next autumn and winter they were mostly destroyed by frost. This spring, having a new crop of flourishing trees of other sorts, and being much at leisure, the market becoming more fixed, and, as appeared by the publications, a new spirit of enterprise was waking up the community; and the liberal encouragement given by agricultural societies as also by our General and State legislatures—and, withal, if you can perceive any little spice of patriotism, you may give full credit to that—I was induced to try again, and am pleased to say that, though the profits are no ways splendid, I am satisfied that as a branch of agriculture and domestic economy, the culture of silk, judiciously intermingled with other branches, will pay well for the labor bestowed upon it. It is not my object now to describe the process; this has been done by others, and treatises on the subject may be had at a cheap rate by all who wish for them.

The information contained in the last Report of our Agricultural Commissioner, exhibits the most accurate, enlarged and judicious views, of any thing I have met with.

After all, experience will be found our best teacher. What I have to say is principally the result of my own experience. I began with about thirty thousand silk worms of the common sort, early in the month of May, just as the mulberry leaves begun to be of a suitable size: I had plenty of room, every convenience for feeding, good ventilation, uniform temperature, and no trouble from vermin of any kind. The worms were very healthy throughout every stage, and in about six weeks their work was completed. The cocoons were measured and weighed, when gathered: they measured full six bushels and an half without the floss, and about ten pounds to the bushel, avoirdupois, from which we reeled a little over six pounds and a half of silk. The crysalis stifled by the sun and the few millers which escaped, were preserved for eggs and the eggs deposited in a dry cellar for future use. The labor of setting and taking down the cradles, gathering and distributing leaves, &c., was done at odd spells when nothing else would have been done, and which might have been done by children, for which I make no estimate. I was not at any expense in preparing additional buildings. By *courtesy*, a corner of our dwelling house on the lower floor, containing one large and two small rooms, was this season fitted up for our new guests, and I have the pleasure to testify on their behalf, that I verily believe the inmates of no family on earth, of the same number, could have been more quiet, or would have left fewer traces, offensive to the most squemish delicacy. Mulberry trees on a small place, may be so arranged as to be ornamental and the expense of leaves trifling.

What I bring into account at this time is for—

30,000 silk worms' eggs, at 12 1-2 cts. per thousand,	$3 75
Reeling 6 1-2 lbs. of silk at $1 per pound,	6 50
Manufacturing the same into sewing silk, at $2 25,	14 62
	$24 87
By return of 6 1-2 lbs. sewing silk worth at the merchant's $9 per lb.	$58 50
	24 87
Nett avails of labor, &c.	$33 63
Amount brought forward,	$33 63
To which add the bounty on 65 lbs. cocoons at 15 cts. per pound,	9 75
For reeling 6 1-2 lbs. silk at 50 cts.	3 50
	$46 88

I suppose that if the silk had been manufactured into stuffs would have been worth more.

It may be asked, however, what is 46 dollars to men or women already well enough employed in other pursuits? I answer, it is just 46 dollars saved, and if "a penny saved is two pence earned," it is twice that sum: at any rate it is 46 dollars, ready cash, all added to our other incomes in a very short time and without hard labor: 46 dollars is nearly sufficient to purchase three fashionable dresses for our wives and daughters, or one good or two common cows, or eight barrels of flour—no trifling items in family expenses. Besides, there is patriotism in the enterprise.

If there are a million of families in our country which might as well as not, raise their $46 worth of silk annually, it would be a saving of as many millions of dollars to our common country; and with a very little additional expense and care, the quantity might be doubled, trebled and quadrupled, by many farmers: indeed, many farmers up and down the Connecticut; and on our hills, on every side, can even *now* show us their ten, twenty and perhaps thirty pounds of raw silk, the product of the present year. I have heard of one who has raised one hundred pounds of silk this year. Be this as it may, I am well satisfied with what I have done, upon a small scale, and am pleased to have it known too, for the encouragement of others.

From my own experience, I have no hesitation in recommending to every family, so far as it is practicable, to begin the cultivation of silk, and with the means they now have. If they have no trees, then buy a few, or as many as they please, and *feel* their way along as they shall be able, and in a short time they will have accomplished their object; and if they should meet with impediments or mysteries, they will soon vanish. A few trees well planted and the raw material is always at hand, and the artist ready to manufacture it, for no other pay than being fed—whereas the raw material of our cotton or woollen fabrics, is the fruit of hard labor, from year to year at a great expense. But the mulberry once planted, and properly taken care of, will stand and flourish for years, and where it happens to fail can easily be replaced. The beginner is apt to misjudge in nothing more than in the number of worms he thinks he may feed.—In starting the business I know of no better rule than one laid down by a friend of mine from Mansfield. "When you have determined how many worms your trees will feed, take just half the number." It is vexatious in the extreme to be gleaning in the vineyard of others even at the low rate of one cent. per pound for the foliage.

The worst effect of over stocking is, it will produce scanty feeding. To have healthy worms and heavy cocoons the worms must be well fed. As in every other business so in the silk culture, if we would succeed well, we must acquaint ourselves with the best of rules and punctiliously observe them. The whole business should be that of the family. When the Piedmontese reel and the silk loom shall become to our wives and daughters what the distaffs and the spindle of the common wheel, were to their mothers and grandmothers, then will the culture and manufacture of silk assume its appropriate importance, and then might we expect to see a laudable emulation, not only among the different families, but among children of the same family and of the same school, each having for the season his cradle of silk worms to tend, and eventually give rise to silk factories in our country villages, side by side with our other manufacturing establishments.

Respectfully, yours,

D. HUNTINGTON.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

EXHIBITION OF FRUIT.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 1840.

B. V. French, Esq. exhibited the following apples, viz: Ortley Pippin, Red Nonsuch, and Monstrous Pippin (Coxe, No. 27.)

M. P. Wilder, Esq., exhibited the following Pears, viz: Passe Colmar, Columbian Virgaulouse and Monsieur le Cure.

Dr. Wight exhibited some large red apples, the name of which is unknown to the Committee.

The Monsieur le Cure having been cultivated under many different names, the Committee are induced to make the following remarks.

It was raised from seed, or first introduced into notice by the curate of a small town near Paris, and for some years was considered identical with the St. Lezin. It has been extensively cultivated in England under the following names—Monsieur le Cure, Dumas, Poire de Clion, Vicar of Wakefield, and Wilmot's new pear.

A letter received in London from M. Vilmoren, of Paris, states that it is a new pear, entirely distinct from St. Lezin—that it is a valuable early winter fruit, and its true name should be Poire de Clion.

It was first cultivated in this country by the late John Heard, Esq., as the "Burgomaster," and described by that name in some Pomological works, and the name of "Winter Bartlett," which it has received in Boston market, will best show the high estimation in which it is held.

For the Committee,

ROBERT MANNING.

Frost Bitten.—For the information of such as are afflicted with frost bitten hands or feet, we publish the following from the New York Sun:

"Dissolve half a pound of alum in a gallon of warm water; and soak the hands or feet before going to bed for ten or fifteen minutes. I had one of my hands frost bitten, and tried various remedies, and expended five or six dollars, endeavoring to obtain a cure, but all to no purpose, until I tried the above. In my case, I dissolved about three ounces of alum in a quart of warm water, (keeping it pretty warm,) soaked my hands three or four nights, when a cure was effected—the expense was two or three cents

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Rheumatism.—Take a pint of the spirits of turpentine, to which add half an ounce of camphor; let it stand till the camphor is dissolved; then rub it on the part affected, and it will never fail of removing the complaint. Flannel should be applied after the part has been well fomented with turpentine. Repeat the application morning and evening. It is said to be equally effectual in cases of burns, scalds, and bruises.—*Bay State Democrat.*

POUDRETTE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14, 1840.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer:

SIR:—Will you allow me the privilege of laying before the agricultural community the following letter in relation to a subject which at this time is exciting considerable interest among the farmers of this vicinity. The writer hesitates to put his name to it, because (as he says) he is "too young a farmer to appear in print." Allow me to say that his statements are to be relied on, even if he is a young farmer, as he has been too long a merchant of high standing in this city, now retired from business, to mislead others, and especially those who cultivate the soil.

Respectfully, yours,

D. K. MINOR.

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To D. K. MINOR—Sir—The enclosed notes of the effect of poudrette on various crops are at your service, if you can make them useful without my name, for I am too young a farmer to appear in print.

I hope you may find sufficient encouragement to enable you to increase your business, and that it may become more profitable to you than I fear it has been.

Yours, &c., J. H.

Pelhamdale, Westchester co., Dec. 9, 1840.

As I promised to give you the result of my experiments the past season with poudrette as a manure for various crops, I now have to say that I consider it superior to any manure that I have ever used.

On potatoes—the seed and soil the same—those manured with poudrette in the drill came up four days earlier than those manured with the best stable manure, and kept, during their whole growth, before them; and when dug, they yielded larger tubers; but as the two parcels were not accurately measured, (some having been used early) I cannot say how much difference there was in their product; but I know those manured with poudrette were the largest bulk.

For corn, I think no other manure can come in competition with it. I planted, last season, on sward turned over, (being first manured with common yard dung,) the ground rolled very flat and harrowed—no plough used afterwards—the rows being marked by an ox chain drawn on the ground; the corn dropt, and half a gill of poudrette immediately put on the corn, and lightly covered with the hoe. This was done from 25th to 28th of May, as the weather permitted—more than a fortnight after my neighbors had planted.

I was told by many who saw the manner and time of planting, that I should have no crop, but in three weeks my corn was farther advanced than any near me, and it continued of the finest color, and was the best filled of any I saw through the season. It was cut up and removed from the field on the first of September; and when husked, turned out less soft corn than I ever had, in proportion to the quantity of good corn. I can attribute this quick and good growth to nothing but the poudrette—as the land was not well tilled; the corn having had only one good hoeing after it came up, and the cultivator was run through it but twice.

As a top dressing for grass, I can speak in the highest terms of poudrette. Being anxious to have some parts of a new garden soon in sward, I put some loam, gravel and peat earth on a piece of swamp ground filled in with stones and rubbish from the walks, and sowed grass seed in October. I could see the grass fairly up before the snow covered it in December; but in March, scarcely any appearance of grass or roots was visible I had the ground raked over and some poudrette spread lightly over it, and about half the usual quantity of clover seed sowed on it, and the effect was truly astonishing, for in June it was cut, again in August, and some feed on it in October; and until the snow of the 5th instant it remained beautifully green. A small space, where a shovelfull was accidentally spilled and not well gathered up, grew so luxuriantly that it could be at once perceived on entering the garden.

For turnips, I know poudrette to be almost a certain guard against the fly. Mine this year are as fine as were ever raised in the county, and although sowed from 15th July to 1st of September, (the latter after a crop of potatoes;) they have fully matured, and no appearance of injury by the fly from the time of sowing. I put the poudrette in the drill, after the turnip seed, and it took but a very small quantity, say so as to look like a train of gunpowder.

For cucumbers, melons, &c., I think poudrette mixed with peat earth the best manure that I have tried. I raised very fine watermelons on *sand* with this compost the past season.

Dec. 9, 1840.

MR EDITOR—May I add, sir, that the writer of the foregoing letter has used poudrette prepared by the "New York Poudrette Company," three successive seasons, at the rate of 100 bushels a year, experimentally in various ways, and that the *bushel* is estimated as equal to a *city cartload* of street manure. He receives one hundred bushels annually, as the dividend on one share in the company which cost one hundred dollars, and he usually carries it home, 14 miles, at four or five loads, in a light pleasure wagon.

Yours, truly, D. K. M.

PRESERVATION OF APPLES.

Many who attended the late exhibition of the New Haven County Agricultural Society, saw and admired the apples of the growth of the year 1839, which were presented to the Society by Mr Augustus Foote, of Branford; and the readers of this paper will recollect that we called on Mr Foote, at the instance of a correspondent, for information that might enable others to preserve apples for an equal length of time. Mr Foote was in town the other day, and responded to our call, by calling on us. He states that his apples were kept through the year, without any extraordinary labor or pains on his part. He puts them in an uncovered bin in his cellar, which is made secure from frost. In the spring, instead of opening his cellar and admitting the fresh air, as is usually the case, he keeps it closed tight as in winter. The consequence is that his apples keep sound through the summer.—The apples which attracted attention at our exhibition, were of a variety which Mr Foote calls "Everlastings," but he thinks apples might generally be preserved in good condition through the summer, if kept in a tight cellar. The admission of fresh air in the spring, according to his theory, causes their speedy decay.—*Farmer's Gaz.*

The importation of silk into this country in 1839 amounted to nearly 23,000,000 dollars.

From the Western Farmer and Gardener.

LARGE AND SMALL FARMS.

SIR:—I wish my brother farmers would think very seriously on the advantages to be derived from the system of cultivating no more land than can be well manured. The desire for more land has been the ruin of thousands, who would at this time have been well off, if *their friends* had deprived them of one half the number of acres they at one time possessed; while the extra labor and anxiety consequent upon a business so spread abroad, are all that many have ever gained, and all that they had a right to expect to obtain. And it would appear to be a fatality to which persons of this sort are subject, or they would surely be able to see the nose in the middle of their face—for one is not more plain than the other. If ten acres of land can be made to yield as much as one hundred, merely by concentrating upon it the means of improvement, the labor and care necessary for the cultivation of the one hundred acres, the result must be profit of mind, body and substance, absolutely astonishing. Now only for a moment calculate the difference in labor, in hauling the manure over one hundred acres instead of ten, and after that the spreading it abroad! Then comes ten times the ploughing, harrowing, sowing with ten times the quantity of seed, hoeing, harrowing, mowing or reaping, and binding and raking over one hundred acres instead of ten, and extra carrying crops; and after all this, ten times the rent to pay: I declare it appears to be a species of insanity, this desire for more land.

I have lately seen a farm where all these evils are embodied—of excellent natural fertility, fields large, and lying on an easy declivity, with every facility for permanent improvement; marl of the richest quality in the middle of the estate, and within three feet of the surface. Now, if the owner of this fine farm of about two hundred acres, would confine his labors to ten acres of the land adjoining his house, and give all the rest to the stock upon his farm, only mowing the weeds to prevent them from seeding his and his neighbor's land, I believe he would then make a *profit*, while at present he must *make a loss.*

I was told yesterday of a farmer who cultivated one acre of land, adjoining a field of thirty acres; both were planted with rye—and at harvest a bet was made that the yield of the one acre was equal to that of the thirty acres; this was, however lost, for the crop of the thirty acres measured exactly *three quarters of a bushel* more than the one acre: these fields I have seen this day; and I have also seen another field, where the owner offered to dispose of the crop of rye for a dollar an acre, but could get no purchaser at that price!

Now, is it not much better to double the crop, than to double the number of acres? But I have land lying before me, which would yield five hundred per cent. more than it now does, by extra management. AN OLD FARMER.

Hard Times.—It is our excessive imports that brings hard times. All the Presidents that were ever born, and all the gold and silver dug from our earth, or imported, or all the banks ever made, could not make a country prosperous, while the imports are so much greater than the exports as they are in the United States. Light amongst all parties is needed, and light alone will produce reform.—*Agriculturist.*

ON MAKING PORK AND COOKING FOOD FOR STOCK.

There is no point in the management of a southern agriculturist, in regard to which there is less of management or economy, than in the system of hog-minding, from its beginning to its end. To speak now only of such as one "put up" to be fattened, what can be more ill judged and wasteful than the buildings or pens constructed for fattening, and the careless, wholesale manner in which their uncooked corn is given to them. From the following on making pork, from the Albany Cultivator, the reader may derive some hints that may be serviceable. How very few there are in Maryland, who make for themselves their own pork, as it is called in New England, yet what can surpass a nice piece of family pork occasionally? As connected in some sort with this subject, we select from the same paper some remarks on cooking food for animals. On the economy of this, writers do not entirely agree. Southern farmers almost entirely overlook the practicability of amassing an immense heap of manure from the hog pen. Some eastern farmers contend, that if well managed in that respect, they may be made to pay for the expense of fattening.—*American Farmer.*

"Making pork is one of the most essential interests of the farmer, and may be made one of the most profitable. We question, however, whether, as generally conducted, much money is made by feeding swine, and the reasons are sufficiently plain. In the first place, but little attention, if any, is paid to the kind of hog used for feeding. It is enough, if the animal, caught and caged in the pen, is a hog; the fact that a given quantity of food fed to some breeds will make nearly or quite as much again pork as when fed to some other breeds, is overlooked; and an astonishing quantity of roots and grain is thus annually wasted. In the second place, the mode of feeding is very defective. The food may be good, but if given to the hog unprepared, or uncooked, much of its efficiency is lost. To keep hogs profitably, they should from the first, be kept in a thriving state. Not half fattened at one time, and then allowed to fall away until they are miserably poor; but kept constantly improving from the time they leave the sow until they are ready for slaughtering. It takes a much larger amount of food to raise an animal of any kind allowed to become poor, than to keep one constantly thriving. Again, the time allotted to feeding, is usually too limited; good, firm, heavy pork cannot be made, no matter what may be the feed used, short of three or four months. Hogs may be puffed out, and made to look pretty fair, but their meat will not be hard and firm, and will be affected with the complaint called shrinking in the pot. Hogs fatten much faster in moderate weather, than in severe cold weather; and hence the process of fattening should commence as early as the food to be used can be had. After the process of feeding begins, see that the hogs have enough: to suppose a squeeling, ravening hog will fat, is a mistake, but unfortunately a common one.

Farmers in general miss a large part of the profits that might be made from feeding pork, by not paying attention to the making of manure from swine. For corn, a variety of experiments has convinced us there is no manure that can be compared with that of the pig; and the farmer who permits any of this to be wasted, or does not give the animal an opportunity of converting as much mould, vegetable matter, &c. into manure as can be done, is a great loser in the end. Some able farmers have estimated that the manure made by a lot of pigs, where the proper materials are provided, will fully pay the expense of feeding; but there is no doubt if they do not do this, they will, by fermenting the most enriching compost for crops, add essentially to the ultimate profits of the farmer. To make good pork, a hog should not be less than fifteen months old, kept constantly thriving, not have a yard as large as the farm or the highway, and be fed on good food not less than three months.

Cooking Food for Animals.

All are aware that grain of almost every kind greatly increases in bulk by steaming or boiling, and this bulk is greatest at the moment the grain is swelled so as to crack or burst its skin. It is also known that cooked food is far more nutritious to animals than that which is uncooked; and many have gone on the supposition that its increase in value for food was equal to its increase in bulk in cooking. This is doubtless a mistake, as the nutritive power of articles is rarely in proportion to their size, and never perhaps exactly in proportion to their increase of bulk in cooking.

Reaumur instituted a series of experiments to determine the rate of increase in different articles of food most commonly used for animals, and found the result of some of them as follows:

4	pints of	oats	after boiling,	filled	7 pints.
4	"	barley	"	" 10	"
4	"	buckwheat,	"	" 14	"
4	"	Indian corn	"	" 15	"
4	"	wheat	"	" 10	"
4	"	rye	"	" 15	"

In the continuation of his experiments to ascertain the effect of such food on animals, he found that with some of these articles, though the bulk was much increased, the total of food required to satisfy the animal, was the same as if no cooking had taken place; or that an animal that would eat half a bushel of oats dry, would eat a bushel cooked with the same ease. The nutritive power was, however, apparently increased, or the whole of it contained in the grain made available; which, when grain is fed whole or raw is rarely the case. On the whole, he came to the conclusion that when wheat, barley, or Indian corn is used for feeding, it is far more economical to boil or cook these grains, than to feed them in a raw state; but that little is gained on the score of economy, when time, fuel, &c. are taken into consideration, in cooking oats, rye and buckwheat.

In determining the question of economy, much we think is depending on the manner in which the cooking of the grain is performed, whether alone or with other substances, such as roots. Alone, corn is the most improved by cooking of any of the grains, and the value of corn meal for making pork, it has been shown by experiment, is almost double when made into pudding. We have long been in the habit of boiling and steaming potatoes for feeding pigs or making pork. With them, in the early part of the feeding, we incorporate apples, squashes, pumpkins, indeed almost any vegetables of which swine are fond. The grain we use, is ground, and either steamed with the roots or mixed with the hot mass in the vats as it is taken from the steamer. As the feeding progresses, the quantity of meal is increased, until towards the last, that material alone. Corn is decidedly the best grain for making pork; peas and barley are next."

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

PROTECTION OF CATTLE.

Cattle whose bellies are kept well filled, have an active, vigorous circulation of the blood, which keeps them warm during the inclement winter season, provided they have access to an open shed to protect them from wet. It is much to be regretted that so many barn-yards are destitute of open sheds to furnish protection to cattle. Those animals that are furnished with warm stabling during the night, suffer much more for want of protection from wet during the day-time, than if they were exposed night and day to the elements. An advantage of no trifling amount, also, arises from open sheds in a barn-yard, protecting the manure under them from being bleached by rains, which depreciates its value one half. An accurate experiment has been made by an intelligent farmer on this subject, which resulted in proving, that one load of manure which was protected in this manner, goes as far as two loads which had lain exposed to all the rains of the season. A rough shed costs but a small sum, and it matters not how rough and cheap it is made, so that stock can be kept dry under it.

Try it; go to work and erect one yet, though it be already winter; it can be done in a day or two, at a very inconsiderable outlay, and it will pay for itself, with a hundred per cent. profit, before this time twelvemonth.

Have you water near your barn for your stock, or do you permit your cattle to wander abroad for several hours every day in pursuit of it elsewhere? Farmers who permit their stock to get drink where they can find it, and drop their manure where it will be a nuisance rather than a benefit, cannot be called good managers, and such are uniformly rewarded according to their works.

AGRICOLA.

Beach Grass.—We have before referred to this grass and its peculiar properties as stock for the manufacture of paper. From repeated experiments, paste-board, bandbox, hanging, and wrapping papers, of a superior quality, have been made from it, which is preferable to the same paper made from common coarse stock, that costs at least double what this grass can be produced for. It is estimated that from 600 to 800 tons of this grows annually on Cape Cod. No use whatever was made of it, till it was discovered by Mr Sanderson that it was of a fibrous nature, and peculiarly fitted for the manufacture of the articles above named. Mr S. has received three premiums from different associations, for the discovery, and holds a patent, and, from want of means, wishes to connect himself with some one who can furnish a part of a capital to commence its manufacture on an extensive scale. —*Boston Transcript.*

A potato diet is found greatly to improve the quality of the blood. Hence roasted or baked potatoes are successfully employed as a specific against the sea scurvy, when other remedies have failed. This discovery was made in France. It is singular that boiled potatoes do not seem to have the same good effects.

Expense of War.—The expenditures of the British government for the expenses of wars for six successive years, ending with the battle of Waterloo, which gave peace to Europe, amounted to the enormous sum of £636,016,988.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 1840.

CHANGE IN CONDUCTING THE N. E. FARMER.

In consequence of having our mind fully occupied in superintending and directing the concerns of our Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, we have found it impossible to devote the time and attention to the N. E. Farmer which are due to our numerous subscribers, readers and friends. We deem it necessary, therefore, to throw off all responsibility in relation to the paper. The duties of the Agricultural Commissioner calling him frequently to distant parts of the State, render close and constant attention to the paper on his part impossible. We find it important to confide the editorial department to hands less trammeled by other pursuits than Mr Colman's and our own; and we have engaged ALLEN PUTNAM, Esq., of Danvers, (formerly a clergyman, but for a few years past a *practical farmer,*) to become editor, after the first of January next. Though by this arrangement we are in danger of losing in part the able assistance of the Agricultural Commissioner, we trust the character of the paper will be sustained.—Mr Putnam is not entirely unknown to the agricultural community. His address before the Essex Agricultural Society, in 1839, has been extensively read and well received. If that performance be a fair specimen of his ability as a writer for farmers, our readers may anticipate much instruction and high satisfaction from his labors. In that address he informs us that he has been an actual laborer on the farm, using with his own hands the plough, the scythe, and other agricultural implements. We saw him between the plough-handles at Worcester, as a member of the committee for awarding the State Society's premiums on ploughs, and he seemed to be in a place to which he was accustomed. Uniting as he does the advantages of a collegiate education, and of actual acquaintance with the labors, condition and wants of *a* New England Farmer, we think him peculiarly suited to take charge of *the* New England Farmer. J. B.

LECTURES ON AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

We understand from a prospectus forwarded us by a friend, and learn it with great pleasure, that Dr Dana, of Lowell, proposes at the request of several of his fellow citizens, to give a course of six lectures on Agricultural Chemistry. There is no man in the country who has given more attention to the subject, or is more competent to discuss these important topics. The public are not ignorant of Dr. Dana's views of vegetation, and the discoveries in the investigation of soils and manures, which, if made by others, are yet original with him; and the fruits of his laborious investigation.

We are not prepared to say that the Dr.'s theoretical notions are correct. This remains to be established: but they certainly have strong arguments in their support; and on a subject so profound, we may patiently wait for farther light and for any and all the light which may be thrown upon it.

At present, in regard to many of the operations of nature in any and every department, we must remain in the dark, hoping for the rising of the sun. The vital action is a profound mystery; we certainly will not say never to be solved, but as yet the solution, for aught we see, is as distant as ever. Wherever it is possible, however, by the investigation of the elements of any substance and the study of its chemical affinities, actions and relations, to understand how it operates, and this may be done in many cases, these advances in chemical knowledge are most important. This work chemistry has done and is now doing with great success. We say this with particular emphasis and pleasure, not from what has been effected in our own country only, but from the spirit and intelligence with which the subject is pursued abroad, in England, France and Germany, where it seems to have become almost the favorite study of some of the most gifted and enlightened minds.

We have just been looking, with a pleasure that we can hardly express, at a new work by Liebig, on Agricultural Chemistry, laid before the British Association last autumn, and just received here. We have as yet given it a very imperfect examination, because we felt obliged and happy to transfer our copy to a learned friend from the interior. But we shall replace it the moment it is practicable; and satisfy our appetite with one of the richest treats that has as yet ever come within our reach. The style of the book is obscure, as written in English by a German, and it is too full of scientific terms for general readers; but we have a large body of intelligent men among our literary and in our farming community, who will read it with the greatest interest.

With the hasty view which we have been able to take of it, we are not willing to give an account of his theories, and the arguments and facts by which he sustains them; but if his notions are well founded, he solves in the most lucid and satisfactory manner the great and difficult questions which have prevailed in regard to soils, vegetable mould and humus, and the alkalies and salts, which evidently play so important a part in vegetation. We hope the book will speedily be republished in this country; and we hear with the highest satisfaction, that a proposition to this effect has been made to some of our publishers, and to add to it notes of explanation and illustration, by a learned Professor at New Haven, long distinguished for his skill in chemistry and geology, and equally for his public spirit and his ambition to be useful.

There are one or two important points established by the book, which we are hardly willing to pass over, because they so fully confirm our own views often expressed, and are so constantly confirmed by observation and experience. The first is, that potash is the most important of all ingredients in the soil, especially for wheat and many other plants. The second is, that the most valuable and efficient of all manures is human urine. In cities, likewise, where the food of the inhabitants is various and more meat is consumed than in the country, this material is the more valuable. We hope our farmers will, as we have often urged them to do, consider this; and avail themselves as they might in various ways, of its advantages. We believe that three barrels of this material properly managed would do as much for them as a cord of stable manure; and it certainly might be obtained and managed with far less trouble, to say nothing of the advantages to cleanliness in our cities and the economy of saving from waste a substance of so much value. We make no apology for treating a subject so homely in this explicit manner. We shall say more of it hereafter; and we hold in utter contempt that false modesty, which hesitates to treat, when use, or health, or science requires, of any of the operations of nature. Evil be to him who evil thinks.
H C.

You who are blessed with abundance, remember the poor now—this is the time that want pinches hardest—the charity which alleviates the sufferings of the unfortunate is "twice blessed."

POUDRETTE COMPANY, NEW YORK—D. K. MINOR.

In reference to the Poudrette mentioned in the letter of D. K. Minor, on another page of this week's Farmer, and to which reference has been repeatedly made before, we beg leave to add the terms on which shareholders are received into the company. We believe that the price of a share is one hundred dollars. We add an extract from a private letter of Mr Minor, which we have just received—"You will perceive that the shareholders are to receive one hundred bushels *annually* as their return or dividend; which is worth 35 to 40 cents per bushel; and which, if they receive it regularly, will be equivalent to 35 or 40 per cent. per annum; or to a return of their capital with 10 to 15 per cent. interest every four years for 18 years to come. Of course, the inquiry will naturally arise, Will the shareholders receive their dividends as promised? In reply to this I can only say to you that thus far they have received them in full up to July last, even under all the difficulties and prejudices arising from the introduction of such a business, and that I have confidence in my ability to carry it through, and of making a handsome income for myself after giving the shareholders their dividends. My determination is to succeed in the business, and I have *no doubt* of success."

We have thought it best to let Mr Minor speak for himself. We know nothing of the situation of the Poudrette company with which Mr Minor is connected, otherwise than as it appears above. But we know a good deal of Mr Minor, and have known him for several years. We presume he states nothing but what he feels warranted in stating. We are persuaded he would not willingly mislead any one. We believe him to be a strictly upright and honest man. No man ever worked harder for a living; and having been prostrated by a succession of unavoidable misfortunes, growing out of the great fire in New York, we wish him all possible success; and hope that some of the farmers of Massachusetts will, under the prospect of such liberal dividends, take shares in his company. H. C.

POUDRETTE CONTROVERSY.

Our insertion of the advertisement of the "New York Poudrette Company" in the postcript of which there is a pointed distinction between that company and the "Lodi Manufacturing Company," has induced Mr John Stevens, foreman of the last named company, to send us a long affidavit, in which we have the results of the analysis of the poudrette of the two companies, by three different chemists, who agree substantially in their reports, and make the article manufactured by the Lodi company contain about 160 parts of manuring properties where that of the New York company contains 100 parts. We are requested to insert the entire article, and we would gladly do so, did we suppose the subject as interesting to our readers as it obviously is to the manufacturers. But as its insertion will put us under obligation to insert a rejoinder, should one be sent us, and thus open our columns to a protracted controversy, we must withhold the article, though it is written with apparent justice and candour, and though we are offered compensation for the insertion. J. B.

FIRST REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The subscriber asks as a particular favor of any person who has one to spare "either for love or money," a copy of the First Report of the Agriculture of Massachusetts. Gentlemen who were members of the legislature in the year of its publication, received five copies

each. He would very cheerfully pay for a dozen copies, if they can be obtained. H. C.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Dec. 21, 1840.
Reported for the New England Farmer

At Market 620 Beef Cattle, 200 Stores, 2400 Sheep and 60 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle*—Our quotations for the first and second qualities last week, were not so high as they should have been, and we quote still higher to day. First quality $5 75 a 6 00. Second quality, $5 00 a 5 50. Third quality, $3 00 a $4 00.

Barrelling Cattle.—Prices have not advanced on Barrelling Cattle, and we quote the same.—Mess $4 25 a $4 50; No. 1 $3 75; No. 2 $3 00.

Stores.—A few sales only were noticed.

Sheep.—Sales quick. Lots $1 50 $1 75, $2 00, $2 33, and $2 75. Weathers $3 50, and $4 00.

Swine—A small number only were at Market, consequently no larger lots were sold. A lot of barrows at 5 and a lot at 5 1-2. Lots to retail, from 4 1-2 to 6.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending Dec. 20.

Dec. 1840.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	14	32	42	36	W.
Tuesday,	15	30	44	41	S. W.
Wednesday,	16	38	46	34	N.
Thursday,	17	24	28	24	W.
Friday,	18	10	21	14	W.
Saturday,	19	10	28	25	W.
Sunday,	20	12	26	22	N.

POUDRETTE.

The subscribers reside in the state of New Jersey, many of us in the vicinity of the works erected by Anthony Dey, of the city of New York, on the Hackensack river, in New Jersey, for the manufactory of Urate and Poudrette, called "*The Lodi Manufacturing Company*" We have used the poudrette on the Spring Crops this year, 1840. We find it *a valuable manure, superior to any other kind that we have ever used, and considering the facility of its transportation to the field, the small quantity required in the application to the crops, the quickness of its operation on vegetable matter, and the ease with which it can be applied,*—all tend to recommend its use to the farmer and gardener as *the cheapest and best manure*, and we recommend it accordingly.

Those of us who have applied it to corn and potatoes think that it ripens those vegetables quicker than any other manure by several weeks.

Dated New Jersey, October, 1840.

Jacob D. Van Winkle.	*P. F. Welsh.*
John J. Newkirk.	*G. C. Van Riper.*
John Tise.	*George Tise.*
Daniel Van Riper.	*William Wood.*
George Demott.	*John Duryee.*
Henry Drayton.	*George Newkirk.*
Josiah Hornblower.	*Garret Newkirk.*
Corns. Van Winkle.	*Daniel Vreeland.*

Shares in the above company are $100 each, and may be had by applying to Anthony Dey No. 73 Cedar St. New York—The owner will receive 20 per cent. per annum, payable in money, or 50 bushels of Poudrette. The price to those who buy Poudrette is 40 cents a bushel. It costs the Stockholders 12 cents a bushel. *One cents worth*, that is, 20 Gills, will manure 20 hills of corn, and the like quantity 15 hills of Potatoes.

Newspapers friendly to agriculture will confer a favor on the Farmers and Gardeners by publishing the above.

Dec. 22.

FARM FOR SALE.

The subscriber offers for sale that valuable Farm, situated about 3-4ths of a mile below the First Parish Meeting House, on the Stage road, and commonly known as the Judge Prescott farm, containing about 170 acres of superior land, in a good state of cultivation, with two dwelling houses, four barns, and other out buildings. The farm is remarkably well watered with soft water, conveniently fenced, has nearly forty acres of large, handsome wood and timber standing on it, with an orchard of grafted Apple, Pear, Peach, Plum, and Cherry trees, and might be easily divided into two Farms. The estate will be sold reasonably. If five thousand dollars be paid on receipt of the deed, the remainder may lay on mortgage to suit the convenience of the purchaser. For further particulars, apply to the subscriber, living on the premises. WM. SALISBURY.

Groton, Oct. 26, 1840. eow.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.
2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.
3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.
4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

WILLIS'S LATEST IMPROVED VEGETABLE CUTTER.

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them: this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

GREEN HOUSE PLANTS, &c. &c.

The subscriber can furnish every variety of Green House Plants or Garden Shrub, in the very best order. Also—Dahlia roots, (all the new varieties); Black Hamburg, Sweetwater, and Isabella Grape vines; Roses and Pæonies; Honeysuckles, and other creepers; Black, White, and Red Currant trees: White and Red Antwerp Raspberry vines: Asparagus and Rhubarb roots, &c.

Orders by mail will be promptly and faithfully executed; or they can be forwarded to, or left with J. Breck & Co

JAMES L. L. F. WARREN,

Oct. 28. Nonantum Vale, Brighton.

FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

We would inform our customers and friends that we are now receiving our supply of fresh Garden Seeds, most of which have been raised under our own inspection, from fine selected roots; which we warrant to be of the purest quality of the growth of the present season.

Agricultural Books.

Agricultural Implements.

Seed and Implement Catalogues sent to all applicants gratis, and all orders promptly attended to.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Sept. 29, 1840. 4w

GRINDSTONES.

An extensive assortment of Water and Hand Grindstones constantly on hand and for sale by AMMI C. LOMBARD & CO. 13 Lewis's Wharf. isly. Nov. 17.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

			From	To
Apples, Winter,		barrel	1 50	1 75
Ashes, Pearl, per 100 lbs.			5 75	6 00
Pot, " " "			5 50	5 62
Beans, white, Foreign,		bushel	1 75	2 25
" " Domestic,		"	2 00	2 50
Beef, mess, new,		barrel		10 50
No. 1.		"		9 00
prime,		"	6 75	7 00
Beeswax, white,		pound	37	40
yellow,		"	23	29
Bristles, American,		"	35	70
Butter, shipping,		"	10	13
dairy,		"	18	25
Candles, mould,		"	12	13
dipped,		"		
sperm,		"		40
Cheese, new milk,		pound	7	8
Cider,		dozen	1 25	1 50
		barrel	1 50	1 75
Bone Manure,		bushel		32
in casks,		"		37
Feathers, northern, geese,		pound		
southern, geese,		"	37	45
Flax, (American)		"	9	12
Fish, Cod, Grand Bank,		quintal	2 44	2 58
Bay, Chaleur,		"	2 12	2 33
Haddock,		"	1 25	1 33
Mackerel, No. 1,		barrel	14 25	14 50
No. 2,		"		13 00
No. 3,		"		
Alewives, dry salted. No. 1.		"		
Salmon, No. 1,		"	17 00	18 00
Flour, Genesee, cash,		"	5 37	5 44
Baltimore, Howard street,		"	5 50	5 62
Richmond canal,		"		
Alexandria wharf,		"		5 50
Rye,		"		3 37
Meal, Indian, in bbls.		"	3 12	3 25
Grain: Corn, northern yellow,		bushel	62	63
southern flat, yellow,		"	58	60
white,		"		54
Rye, northern,		"	65	68
Barley,		"		
Oats, northern, (prime)		"	42	44
southern,		"	28	32
Grindstones, pr ton of 2000 lbs. rough			18 00	20 00
do. do. do. finished			28 00	30 00
Hams, northern,		pound	11	12
southern and western,		"		11
Hay, best English, per ton,			15 00	16 00
Eastern screwed,			10 50	
Hops, 1st quality,		pound	35	38
2d quality,		"		
Lard, Boston,		"	10	11
southern,		"		
Leather, Philadelphia city tannage,		"	26	30
do. country do.		"	23	28
Baltimore city tannage,		"	22	27
do. dry hides,		"	20	23
New York red, light,		"	19	21
Boston, do. slaughter,		"	21	23
Boston dry hides,		"	18	21
Lime, best sort,		cask	75	80
Molasses, New Orleans,		gallon	20	27
Sugar House,		"		
Oil, Sperm, Spring,		"		1 05
Winter,		"	1 15	1 16
Whale, refined,		"	40	45
Linseed, American,		"		
Neat's Foot,		"	95	
Plaster Paris, per ton of 2200 lbs.				
Pork, extra clear,		barrel		17 00
clear,		"		16 00
Mess,		"	14 00	15 00
Prime,		"	13 00	14 00
Seeds: Herd's Grass,		bushel	2 50	3 00
Red Top, southern,		"	70	80
northern,		"		1 50
Canary,		"	2 00	2 25
Hemp,		"	2 25	2 50
Flax,		"	2 00	2 50
Red Clover, northern,		pound	13	14
Southern Clover,		"		15
Soap, American, Brown,		"	4	6
" Castile,		"	12	13
Tallow, tried,		"	8½	9
Teazles, 1st sort,		pr M.		
Wool, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,		pound	50	55
American, full blood, washed,		"	47	50
do. 3-4ths do.		"	44	46
do. 1-2 do.		"	36	40
do. 1-4 and common,		"	35	37
Northern pulled, Pulled superfine,		"	43	46
Northern pulled, No. 1,		"	37	42
Northern pulled, No. 2,		"	28	30
Northern pulled, No 3,		"	18	21

MISCELLANEOUS.

NATURAL HISTORY.

THE MOLE.

This curious little quadruped seems formed to live wholly under the earth, as if the supreme Being meant that no place should be left wholly untenanted. Were we, from our own sensations to pronounce upon the life of an animal that was never to appear above ground, but be always condemned to hunt for its prey underneath, and obliged, whenever it removed from one place to another, to bore its way through a resisting body, we should be apt to assert that such an existence must be the most frightful and solitary in nature. In the mole, however, though condemned to all these seeming inconveniences, we discover no signs of wretchedness or distress. No quadruped is fatter, none has a more sleek or glossy skin; and, though denied many advantages that most animals enjoy, it is more liberally possessed of others, which they have in a more scanty proportion.

The size of the mole is between that of the rat and the mouse; but it in no way resembles either, being an animal entirely of a singular kind, and perfectly unlike any other quadruped whatever. Its nose is long and pointed, resembling that of a hog, but much longer. Its eyes are so small that it is scarcely possible to discern them; and instead of ears it has only holes in the place. Its neck is so short that the head seems stuck upon the shoulders. The body is thick and round, terminating by a very small short tail, and its legs are so short, that the animal seems to lie flat on its belly. Thus it appears to us, at first view, as a mass of flesh covered with a fine shining black skin, with a little head, and scarce any eyes, legs, or tail. The ancients, and some of the moderns were of opinion, that the mole was utterly blind; but Derham, by the help of a microscope, plainly discovered all parts of the eye that are known in other animals. The smallness of its eyes, which induced the ancients to think it blind, is to the animal a peculiar advantage. A small degree of vision is sufficient for a creature that is destined to live in darkness. A more extensive sight would only have served to show the horrors of its prison, while nature had denied it the means of escape. Had this organ been larger, it would have been perpetually liable to injuries, by the falling of the earth into it; but nature, to prevent that inconvenience, has not only made them very small, but has covered them with hair. Besides these advantages, anatomists mention another, that contributes to its security: namely, a certain muscle, by which the animal can draw back the eye whenever it is necessary, or in danger. Indeed, the whole figure and formation of the mole is most admirably adapted to its manner of living, and strikingly illustrates the wisdom and skill of the Almighty Creator.—*Abbott's Scripture Natural History.*

THE BEAVER.

The following interesting anecdote of the beaver, is taken from Franklin's Narrative of a Journey to the Polar sea:

"One day a gentleman, long resident in this country, espied five young beavers, sporting in the water, leaping upon the trunk of a tree, pushing one another off, and playing a thousand interesting tricks. He approached softly, under cover of the bushes, and prepared to fire upon the unsuspecting creatures; but a nearer approach discovered to him such a similitude betwixt their gestures and the infantile caresses of his own children, that he threw aside his gun. This gentleman's feelings are to be envied; but few traders in fur would have acted so feelingly."

THE RATTLE SNAKE.

The rattle snake finds a superior foe in the deer and the black snake. Whenever a buck discovers a rattle snake in a situation that invites attack, he loses no time in preparing for battle. He makes to within ten or twelve feet of the snake, then leaps forward, and aims to sever the body of the snake with his sharp bifurcated hoofs. The first onset is most commonly successful, but if otherwise, the buck repeats the trial until he cuts the snake in twain. The rapidity and fatality of his skilful manœuvre, leave but a slight chance for its victim either to escape or to inject its poison into its more alert antagonist. The black snake is also a more than equal competitor against the rattle snake. Such is its celerity of motion, not only in running, but in entwining itself round its victim, that the rattle snake has no way of escaping from its fatal embrace.

When the black and rattle snakes are about to meet for battle, the former darts forward at the height of his speed, and strikes at the neck of the other with unerring certainty, leaving a foot or two of the upper part of his own body at liberty. In an instant he encircles him within five or six folds; he then stops, and looks the strangling and gasping foe in the face, to ascertain the effect produced upon his corsetted body. If he shows signs of life, the coils are multiplied, and the screws tightened; the operator all the while narrowly watching the countenance of the helpless victim. Thus the two remain thirty or forty minutes; the executioner then slackens one coil, noticing, at the same time, whether any signs of life appear; if so, the coil is resumed, and maintained until the incarcerated wretch is completely dead. The moccasin snake is destroyed in the same way.

MIGRATORY INSTINCT OF ANIMALS.

A British officer on board a ship which touched at the Island of Ascension, in her way to England, informed me that they took in several large turtles, and amongst others, one, which, from some accident had only three fins. The sailors on board called it the 'Lord Nelson,' and it was marked in a certain way by having certain initials, and numbers burnt upon its under shell with a hot iron, which marks are never to be obliterated. Owing to various causes, the ship was delayed on her voyage; many of the turtles died, and others became sickly. This was the case of the 'Lord Nelson;' and it was so nearly dead when the ship arrived in the channel, that the sailors, with whom it was a favorite, threw it overboard, in order, as they said, to give it a *chance*. Its native element, however, appears to have revived it; for two years afterwards the *very same* turtle was found at its old haunts in the island of Ascension. The proofs brought forward of the accuracy of the statement, place the fact beyond doubt, and afford a wonderful instance of the instinct of this fish. When we consider the vast tract of water which this turtle had to pass, and that the island of Ascension is only a little speck in the mighty ocean, it is impossible not to reflect on that unexplained instinct with wonder, which enabled so unwieldy, and apparently so stupid an animal to find its way back to a rock in the desert of waters.

JACKDAW.

Swinesherd Abbey, in Lincolnshire, is famous in history as the scene of poisoning King John. An old elm tree, in the avenue leading up to the house, was blown down by a high wind; several young jackdaws were killed in the nests in the hollow tree when it fell; one, however, escaped, and was reared by the children. This bird evinced great sagacity, but there was one circumstance attending it which excited particular observation. When the owner of the house was riding out, the bird appeared to be always watching his return; and the moment he saw him coming up the avenue, he would fly off in search of the groom, and by his extraordinary noise, apprise him of his master's approach. If the man did not attend to him, he would peck at his legs, lay hold of his stocking, and pull with all his might; and the man said he was always made sensible of his master's return, by the peculiar note of the bird. It used to take its stand upon the gate of the stable yard, which commanded a view down the avenue. Like most pets, it came to an untimely end. The poor bird alighted amongst some hot ashes, and was burnt to death.

INSTINCT OF BIRDS.

Birds have an extraordinary faculty in avoiding danger, although it be not apparent at the time. Some years ago a large and beautiful ash tree was blown down in the vicarage of Newcastle upon Tyne. About 140 distinct rings marked the growth of this tree, and those circles which remained became too minute to be counted; the tree was thus of great age, but was found decayed near the root. A colony of rooks had been accustomed to build their annual nests upon this tree; but on a sudden, and before the tempest which had uprooted it, they deserted, and for no apparent reason, and took up their abode in an ash tree growing near, the situation of which was between the chimnies of the adjoining houses.

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D. K. MINOR.

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